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Department of Child Services announces scholarship program recipients

25 employees receive financial support toward master's degree

INDIANAPOLIS (May 30, 2019) – Twenty-five Indiana Department of Child Services employees received financial support to further their studies as part of the 2019 Child Welfare Scholars Program.

DCS, in partnership with the Indiana University School of Social Work, offers scholarships to current employees working toward earning their master's degree in social work (MSW).

"I am extremely encouraged by how many of our employees are actively furthering their education, specifically in the field of child welfare," DCS director Terry Stigdon said. "What they learn will directly help them continue the important work we do to help Indiana's children, families and communities."

Employees who have already been accepted into the MSW program at IU are eligible to apply for the Child Welfare Scholars Program, which is supported by federal dollars. Selected students then receive assistance to offset the cost of tuition, books and other fees. Scholars complete course and field work supporting the development of advanced skills in child welfare practice and leadership.

"This year, we had some very promising staff members apply for this funding," said LaTrece Thompson, DCS deputy director of staff development. "The scholarship recipients were from various divisions within DCS, and all of them have a passion for child welfare. This opportunity will provide them with the necessary knowledge to enhance their work here at the agency."

After graduation, MSW students "repay" their scholarship funding by continuing to work for DCS. Typically, graduates fulfill their commitment within two to three years after graduation.

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About Indiana DCS: *The Indiana Department of Child Services protects children from abuse and neglect and works to ensure their financial support. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437. www.in.gov/dcs*



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